



# Instrumentation Tower on Wallops Island

## Draft Environmental Assessment

### SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

Resource Area	No Action	Proposed Action Alternative (Preferred Alternative): X-015 Site	Alternative 1: X-079 Site
Water Resources	No impacts.	Wetlands: negligible short-term and negligible long-term impacts would not exceed more than 1,300 square feet, or approximately 0.03 acre.  Floodplains: negligible impacts.	Alternative 1 would disturb a larger area of wetlands relative to the Proposed Action Alternative (i.e., approximately 0.3 acre of temporary and 0.06 acre of permanent wetland impacts); however, short-term and long-term impacts on wetlands would remain negligible. Impacts on floodplains would be similar to the Proposed Action Alternative.
Coastal Zone Management	No impacts.	The Proposed Action Alternative would be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of Virginia's Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program. The USAF has submitted a Federal Consistency Determination to VDEQ for review. Concurrence with this determination by VDEQ is pending.	Similar to the Proposed Action Alternative.
Hazardous Materials and Wastes	No impacts.	Negligible short-term and long-term impacts from the use of hazardous substances and generation of hazardous waste during the construction and operation of the proposed tower.  No impacts from former remediation sites that have received regulatory closure underlying the Proposed Action Alternative site.	No hazardous substances are used on the site, and no hazardous wastes are generated or stored on the site. The presence of hazardous substances exceeding regulatory thresholds in soil or groundwater is not known.  Impacts from the use of hazardous substances and generation of hazardous waste during the construction and operation of the proposed tower would be similar to those described for the Proposed Action Alternative.
Avifauna (common bird species)	No impacts.	Low to moderate adverse effects on avifauna based on implementation of the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- collocation of equipment on the proposed tower;</li><li>- coordination with USFWS to develop an avian mitigation and monitoring plan;</li><li>- constructing the tower at a previously developed area near similar types of vertical structures;</li><li>- incorporating bird diverters placed every 30 feet along the inner and outer most guys;</li><li>- minimizing tower lighting to ensure it meets FAA requirements in FAA AC 70/7460-1L for type G3 towers (i.e., a 700- to 1,050-foot structure with a less than 40-foot appurtenance), but also remains as bird-friendly as possible; and</li><li>- using down-shielded and motion-activated lighting on support facilities associated with the proposed tower to minimize impacts on wildlife in the vicinity of the proposed tower.</li></ul>	Impacts would be similar to those described for the Proposed Action Alternative.
Special-Status Species	No impacts.	In correspondence dated April 11, 2017, the USFWS concurred with the USAF's determination that the Proposed Action Alternative may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, red knots, piping plovers, and northern long-eared bats at Wallops Island.  The Proposed Action Alternative would have no potential to affect any other special-status terrestrial or marine species.	Impacts would be similar to those described for the Proposed Action Alternative.
Cultural Resources	No impacts.	No adverse effects on historic properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Concurrence by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) is pending.	Impacts would be similar to those described for the Proposed Action Alternative.
Visual Quality and Aesthetics	No impacts.	Negligible short-term impacts and minor long-term impacts.	Impacts would be similar to those described for the Proposed Action Alternative.
Cumulative Effects	No impacts.	Would not result in cumulatively significant impacts when considered along with relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects at WFF.	Would not result in cumulatively significant impacts when considered along with relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects at WFF.